

the police at the State and local level before issuing the arms licences to the applicants under the Arms Act;

(b) if so, the reasons for this dual system;

(c) whether the dual investigation is prescribed for both the breach loading and muzzle loading arms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) Under the existing provisions of Arms Act, 1959 and the rules framed thereunder, a District Magistrate is empowered to grant arms licences for possession of Non-prohibited bore fire-arms which includes Breach Loading/Muzzle Loading arms, valid for the concerned District/State. In order to verify character and antecedents of applicants before grant of arms possession licences, a provision has been prescribed under the said Act/ Rules vide which it is obligatory upon the licensing authority to call for the report of the officer in charge of the nearest police station before granting or refusing to grant arms possession licences. The existing provisions also stipulate that if the officer in charge of the nearest police station does not send his report within the prescribed time, the licensing authority may grant or refuse to grant a licence after expiry of the prescribed time without waiting for that report, on the basis of merits of each cases.

[English]

Elephant Sanctuaries

2556. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Elephant Sanctuaries in the country;

(b) the States where these sanctuaries are located;

(c) whether the Central Government have been funding Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary near Bhubaneswar in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the assistance provided to the sanctuary during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and the current system of scientific management, wildlife sanctuaries now cover the ecosystem as a whole instead of the earlier concept of sanctuaries for individual animals. For elephant conservation, the task force of Project Elephant has identified 11 inter-state and state level elephant reserves as listed at statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The central assistance provided to the Government of Orissa for Chandaka Sanctuary under the C.S.S. Scheme of National Parks and Sanctuaries over the last 3 years is as under :

S.No.	Year	Amount of Assistance
1.	1993-94	Rs. 15.50 lakhs
2.	1994-95	Rs. 3.0 lakhs
3.	1995-96	Rs. 6.16 lakhs

Statement

List of Identified Elephant Reserves

S.No.	Name of Reserve	State
1.	South West Bengal, South Bengal, Bihar-North Orissa Inter State Elephant Reserve	West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
2.	Kameng-Sonitpur Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
3.	Dibru-Deomali Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam
4.	Kaziranga-Karbelong-Intanki-Inter State Elephant Reserve	Assam, Nagaland
5.	Barail-Saifung Inter-State Elephant Reserve	Meghalaya
6.	Balphakram Elephant Reserve	Meghalaya
7.	Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala
8.	Nilambur Silent Valley	Kerala, Tamil Nadu
9.	Annamalai-Parambikulam	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
10.	Periyar	Kerala, Tamil Nadu
11.	Corbett-Rajaji	Uttar Pradesh